

REMARKS

Claims 7, 8, 10 and 15-17 have been amended to clarify the invention. No new matter has been entered by any of the foregoing amendments.

Applicants confirm their election of Claims 7-18, and request that the non-elected claims be maintained in the application, without further action, for possible rejoinder and/or for filing in a divisional application.

Turning to the rejection of Claims 7 and 15-18 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Sakuma et al. (EP 1106278), independent claim 7 has been amended to specify a structure formed of a first metal film and a second metal film different from the first integrally rolled together to form a unitary structure. Sakuma et al. does not teach this. Sakuma et al. (EP 1106278) teaches that a material forming the circular-shaped metal structure may be a specific single metal or an alloy (paragraphs [0039] and [0108]). However, Sakuma et al. fails to teach or suggest using two layers of material, e.g., two metal films, integrally rolled together to form a single unitary circular-shaped metal structure, as required by claim 7. Thus, Sakuma et al. cannot anticipate or for that matter render obvious claim 7 or claims 15-18 which depend therefrom.

Turning to the rejection of claims 11-14 under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Sakuma et al. in view of either one of JP 10-010893 or JP 2002-169392, the rejection of claims 13 and 14 under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Sakuma et al. in view of either one of Goto et al. (JP410140387) or Ragland (US4357618), the rejection of claims 8-10 under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Sakuma et al. alone or over Sakuma et al. in view of Andersen (US1974441), and the rejection of claims 8-10 under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Sakuma et al., these claims

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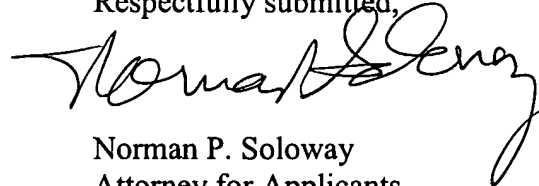
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depend either directly or indirectly from claim 7. The deficiencies of the primary reference Sakuma et al. vis-à-vis claim 7 are discussed above. It is not seen that any of the secondary references supply the missing teachings to Sakuma et al. to achieve or render obvious claim 7, or any of the claims dependent thereon. Thus, all of the above mentioned dependent claims are patentable for the reasons discussed above relative to claim 7, as well as for their own limitations.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action are respectfully requested.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.


Respectfully submitted,



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